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ABSTRACT

This illustrated booklet contains some ideas for making young children's toys and games which are simple and fun to make. The activities encourage the child to learn and practice specific skills such as counting, verbal expression, coordinating hand and eye movements, and help children learn to recognize colors, shapes, and sizes of objects. The special feature of these toys and games is that they can all be made from throw away materials, usually found in the home. (CS)

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FUN IN THE MAKING

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INTRODUCTION

Children learn and grow at an amazing rate. In their early years not only people, but many of the objects in their homes help children to learn. As they touch, look at, listen to and take apart things in their play, children can develop the basic skills they will use throughout their lives. And so, they learn through play.

This booklet contains some ideas for making children's toys and games. They are simple and fun to make and they encourage and help children to learn and practice specific skills such as: the ability to recognize colors, shapes and sizes of objects; to coordinate their hand and eye movements; to count; and to remember to use words to express themselves. The beauty of these toys and games is that they are all made from throw away materials, usually found in the home.

They can be made by children and grownups alike, and offer opportunities for families to spend time together in meaningful ways. Try out some of the suggestions in these pages and get ready for fun in the making.

First, you need a place to store the materials you collect. A large cardboard carton makes a good "stuff box". You can probably pick one up at a grocery store. Children will quickly learn to rummage through it when they are looking for something fun to do.

WHAT TO SAVE FOR YOUR STUFF BOX

ere's a list of suggestions for materials to save. You'll probably think of alot more as you save.

- Egg cartons (well washed)
- Paper towel rolls
- Milk cartons
- Empty thread spools
- Scraps of fabric and yarn
- Aluminum frozen food pans
- Magazines and greeting cards
- Margarine tubs
- Oatmeal boxes
- Styrofoam food trays (well washed)
- Shoe boxes
- Boxes, boxes, boxes
- Plastic bottles and containers
- Large and small paper bags
- Old clothes: dresses, hats, shoes, jewelry (Children will wear them all in the wonderful game of "grown-up".)

★ **A WORD TO THE WISE!** Remember - everything should be clean and safe.

Bacteria can grow in milk and food that may be left in containers and can cause illness. Never, never give young children materials with rusty or sharp edges; poisonous lead-based paints to work or play with; pointed objects; or objects that shatter easily. Small objects should not be given to very young children who may put them into their mouths and choke on them.

THREE GOOD RECIPES FOR FUN IN THE MAKING

PASTE

If you don't have any
lue on hand you can easily
hip up some paste from
little flour and water.

MAKINGS:

½ cup flour

cup boiling water

Add flour to the boiling
ater and stir over low
eat until thick and shiny.
et cool. Can be kept in a
overed container to use
gain.

PLAY-DOUGH CLAY

Many things can be made from play-dough if you have the makings.

MAKINGS:

1½ cups flour

½ cup salt

½ cup water

¼ cup vegetable oil

Mix flour and salt together. Slowly add water and oil, and knead the dough well. Objects that you wish to keep may be left out to harden. The leftover play-dough will keep in the refrigerator in a covered jar to be used again.

BUBBLE SOLUTION

Bubble making is an activity that offers an opportunity for the family to have fun together. Chasing bubbles is also good exercise for children.

To form bubbles, you can use a straw, funnel, spool, mason jar ring or even use your hands.

BUBBLE SOLUTION

Use a shallow pan

MAKINGS:

½ inch clean water
3 or 4 big squirts
dishwashing detergent

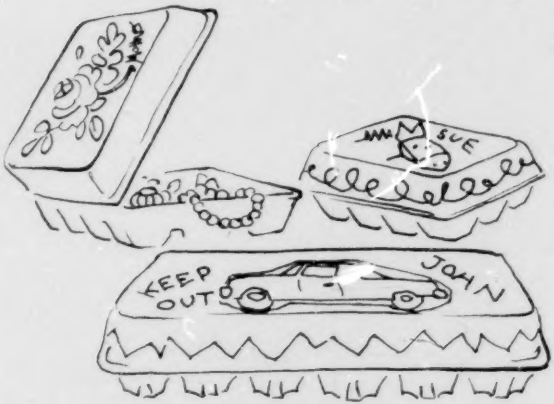
Mix gently so you don't make alot of suds. Dip the object in the solution. Then try blowing through it or waving it in the air.

Caution: Don't let children swallow the bubble solution.

e it JUST AS IT IS -------

Very young children may stack them, open nd close them, put things into the cups and ake them out. The children are having fun nd, at the same time, develop and practice imple skills with their hands.

or DOLL IT UP -------
as a TREASURE BOX



Older children will enjoy decorating an egg carton, perhaps painting or coloring it and pasting pictures on the lid. It makes a great treasure chest for children, or a jewelry case they can give someone as a gift.

r USE IT IN AN EXCITING TEACHING GAME

When you have some free me to spend with a young hild, you can use an egg arton to help the child dentify and match up olors.

MAKINGS:
1 egg carton
cardboard

Color the insides of the cups red, blue, green, ellow - - - From a piece of cardboard, cut hapes small enough to fit into the cups, nd color them the same colors. Place the hapes in the lid in scrambled fashion, dentify each color for the child, and ask im to find the blue shape and put it into he blue cup, the red in the red cup, and so on. Start with just three or four colors and add new ones as the child learns.

An egg carton can also help children learn the names of objects.

MAKINGS:
an egg carton
small objects
small cut-out pictures

Put small items, or pictures of items cut from greeting cards or magazines into the cups. Be sure you tell the child the name of each item. Then ask him to find the name of the button, spool, dog, house, etc.

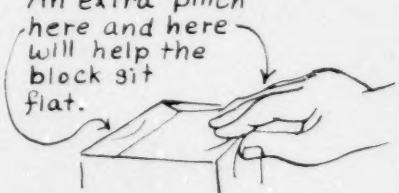
Of course you need to be patient with young children and praise them often when they make the correct choice.

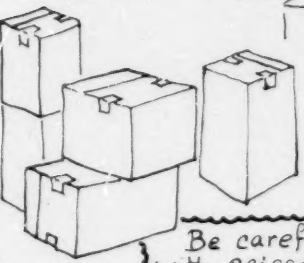
(Both of these games can be enjoyed by children later without your help.)

FUN WITH

BLOCKS TO BUILD WITH - - -

Take a milk carton





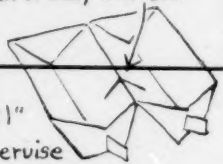
Tape closed if desired. Try various sized cartons cut down to different heights.

Be careful of young children with scissors.

A BOAT TO SAIL - -

MAKINGS:
a milk carton
a paper plate or piece of cardboard

Someone old enough to be careful with a knife can cut a carton, open it out, cut slot and insert paper plate or similar size round cardboard "sail"



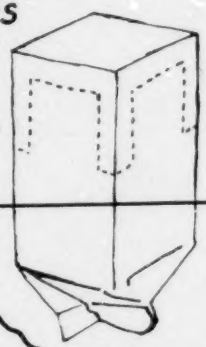
An adult should always supervise young children in the tub or wading pool. He can show them how to make this boat go by blowing at the sail.

EVEN FURNITURE FOR YOUR DOLLS

Someone old enough to be careful with scissors should cut the cartons.

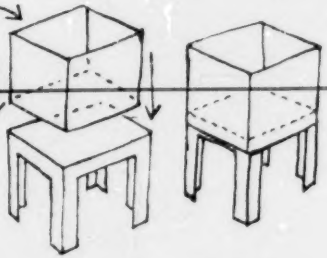
TABLES AND CHAIRS

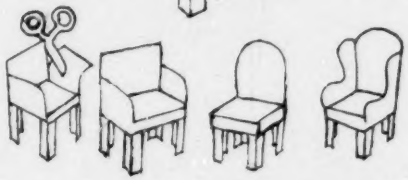
Make a table by cutting a carton like this →



Make a chair. You start by cutting out the seat and legs the same way.

To make the arms and back of your chair, cut a wide band from the center of a carton → Push the lower edge of this down over the seat. It helps if you fit the band over three corners first and then pull it over the fourth.

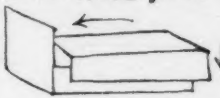




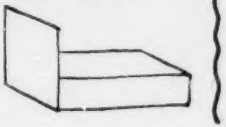
BEDS

Cut out sections like these from two cartons

Fit one over the other - - - -



↓ - - to make a bed →



Trim to make backs and arms. Notice that none of this furniture needs tape or paste.

SAVE THE GREEN TOPS FROM ONIONS--

It is lots of fun to watch an onion grow "legs" or a "tail". Choose a good firm onion from a batch you are cutting up for supper. Cut off generous top including ½ inch of the onion. (Bottom won't work).

Place in jar lid or other shallow container and water daily making sure onion does not dry out.

About the third day you will notice that the onion has begun to tilt as though something is pushing it from underneath.

Push in toothpicks on an angle to rest on the rim of a glass or jar and fill with water so onion top is suspended as shown. Place on a window sill so children can watch the "tail" or "legs" grow.

Watch an onion top lying in the bottom of a jar grow a long curly tail.

To grow a fan of leaves on your onion, transplant it to a pot with soil

(Glass jars should be placed so they can be seen but not reached by very young children. A clear plastic tumbler can be used, if you have one, and placed anywhere.)

AND CARROTS

Grow a carrot top in a shallow container such as a jar lid. Water daily so the carrot top won't dry out.

Onion tops, carrot tops and pumpkin vines can all be replanted in dirt in a larger pot as they grow.

MAKE A PLANTER OUT OF MILK CARTONS:

a quart size for the pot with a hole punched in the bottom for drainage. A dish to catch the drip can be made from a half-gallon carton.

SAVE PUMPKIN SEEDS

Egg cartons make good seed starters and pumpkin seeds are good "throw aways" to plant in them. Fill the cups with dirt and poke a hole in the middle of each about 1/4 inch deep. Drop in the seeds and press the dirt over them. Keep in a sunny window. Water them when the dirt begins to look dry. Watch them pop up and grow and grow and grow!

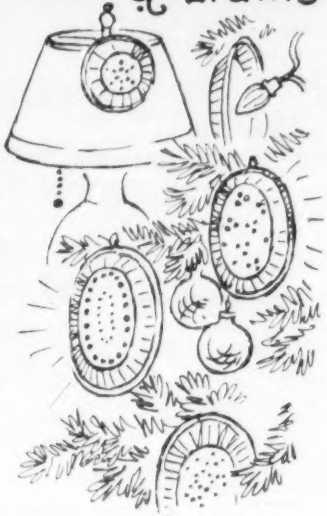
A TAMBOURINE can help children develop an enjoyment of rhythm.

MAKINGS: 2 aluminum pie tins
string or ribbon for lacing
cloth, ribbon or paper for streamers
bottlecaps, buttons or stones

You can decorate the tins with wax crayons. Put the bottlecaps, buttons or stones on one pie tin and lay the other face down over it. Punch evenly-spaced holes around the rim and lace together tightly. Add streamers.

The small objects used for the rattle make this a toy for a child old enough not to try to put them in his mouth if the toy comes apart.

HANG THEM OVER LIGHTS



nake these toys from ALUMINUM PIE PLATES and your children can--

- PLAY WITH LIGHT

PUNCHED-PATTERN PIE PLATES SPARKLE

Children learn to control simple tools when they punch oles in a pie tin with a pencil. Encourage them to reate any pattern they want. For small holes just oke the tip of the pencil into the tin. An older hild can use a nail. To prevent the tin from uckling, it may be helpful to rest the area to be punched over the open end of an empty can. (Make sure it has no sharp edges. A frozen juice can is ideal.)

HANG THEM IN THE WINDOW

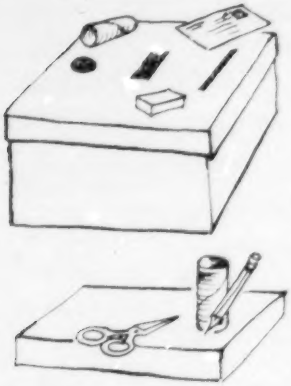
An aluminum pie plate can become a developmental toy for a baby. Hang it where he can see it and learn to focus his eyes on it.

CAUTION: Since the sparkler may attract toddlers to window, make sure you choose a safe window that a child cannot fall out of.

THE PUZZLER-BOX

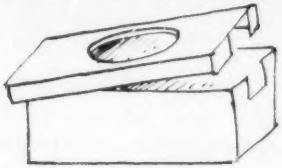
THE PUZZLER-BOX can help toddlers discover how to fit each of three different objects through its own special hole in the lid of the box.

MAKINGS: a medium sized box with lid
3 objects: a coughdrop box
a short section of cardboard tube
an envelope.



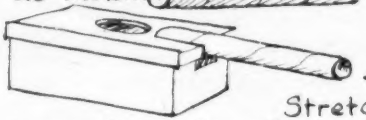
Make the outline for cutting the holes by setting one end of each object on the lid to draw around. An older person can cut the holes with sharp scissors or a knife. Each object will fit into its own hole and no other.

A SHOE BOX BANJO

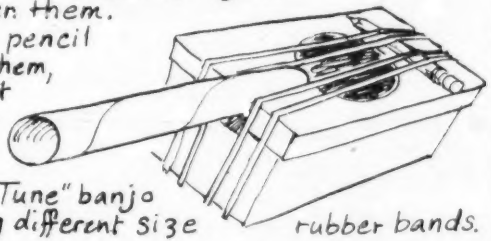


MAKINGS:
a shoe box
rubber bands
a pencil
a cardboard tube

Cut a large hole in the middle of the lid and a piece out of the end of lid and box as shown. Cut slit in cardboard tube and fit into place.

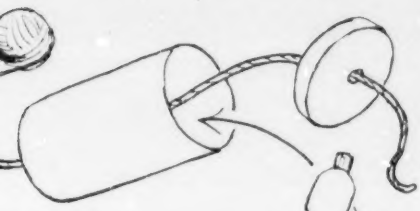


Stretch rubber bands around the box. Space them far enough apart to get your fingers between them. Slide a pencil under them, or short piece of cardboard tube. "Tune" banjo by using different size rubber bands.



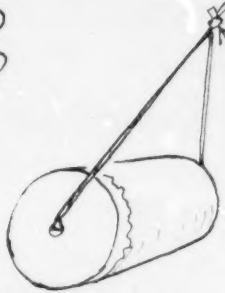
OATMEAL BOXES CAN BE ROLLED AND STACKED or used as drums. Try beating on them with your hands or some spoons.

PULL - TOY THAT ROLLS



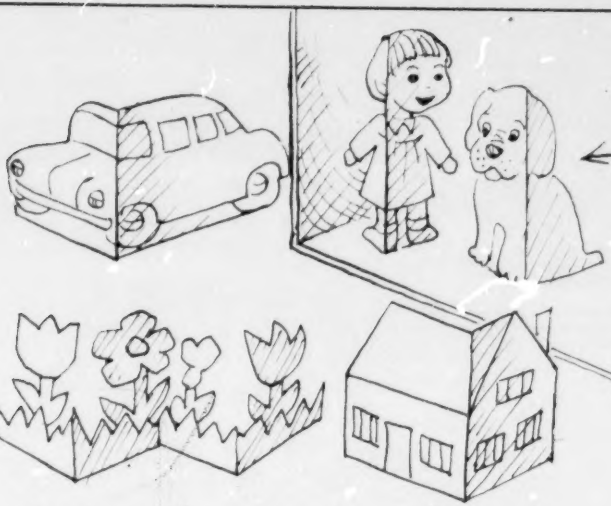
MAKINGS:
an oatmeal box
string
2 or 3 objects to rattle inside

hread a string through hole in the bottom of the x, then through a hole the lid. Put two or three bjects in the box and ose the lid. Choose large jects (such as the plastic ttle or large frozen juice ds shown) that can't be wallowed. This makes e toy safe for even the youngest child.



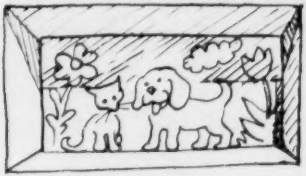
Tie knot as shown. Be sure this knot is high up on the string or the box will not roll.

SHADOW BOXES



Paper figures will stand up if they are folded like this

Cut out figures or scenery from magazines or greeting cards, draw your own, or use a combination. Arrange them in a scene in your shadow box.



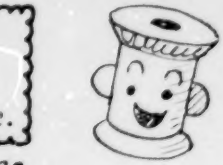
Scenes can be pasted against the back of the box, too. Shadow boxes make good wall hangings to display.

EMPTY SPOOLS HAVE LOTS OF POSSIBILITIES

As soon as children are old enough not to try to put small objects in their mouths that they could choke on, spools can be added to their "stuff boxes".

FUNNY MIX AND MATCH PEOPLE

MAKINGS: Spools
short pencils
scraps of paper,
cotton, yarn, etc.



For each person use three spools: one for the head, one for the body, and one for the feet. Decorate them with paper, scraps of cloth, cotton or yarn and stack them on a pencil stub. They can be used to act out stories or -- just for fun -- take them apart and mix them up in crazy combinations.

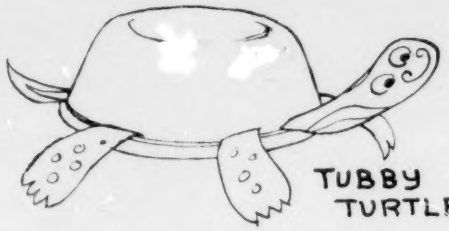
PULL-TOY THAT CLATTERS

Threading spools on a string or a piece of yarn makes agile fingers. Color them and mix in some large beads and large buttons to make a pretty necklace or make a

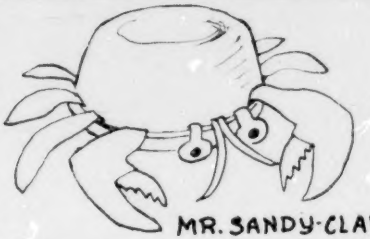
MARGARINE TUBS ARE GREAT FOR STACKING, NESTING OR JUST ABOUT ANY-THING

Put a small toy (but not small enough to swallow) or a cookie into a tub while a baby watches. He'll really work at snapping the lid off to get what's inside--a real achievment for little fingers.

MEET TUBBY TURTLE AND



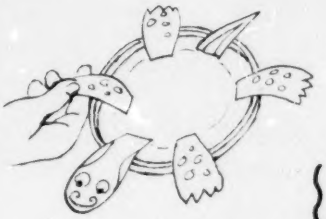
TUBBY TURTLE



MR. SANDY-CLAWS

TO MAKE TUBBY: Cut his head, legs and tail out of paper and color them. Place a lid from a margarine tub upside-down on the table.

MAKINGS:
margarine tubs
paper
yarn (if desired)

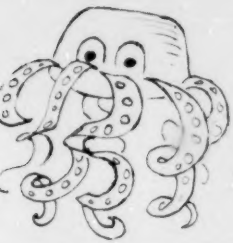


Arrange the head, legs and tail like this.

Put the margarine tub upside-down on the lid and snap it shut. Everything will be held in place.

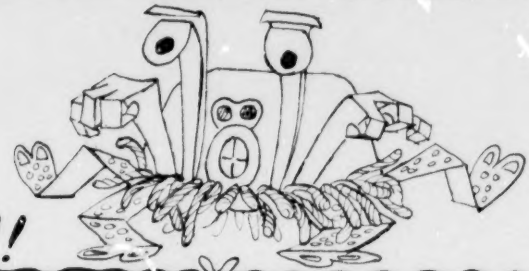
Adjust head, legs and tail to the desired angles.

ALL THE MARGARINE TUB FAMILY



OLLIE-PUSS

SILVESTER DE-SPIDER



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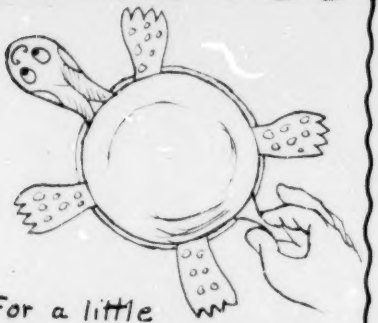
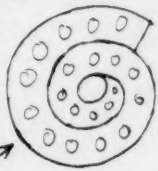


For a little extra shaping, pinch Tubby's neck and tail as shown.

All the margarine tub family is made basically the same way. Bend or pinch the paper parts in whatever shape or direction you wish. Notice that the legs of the octopus are cut in a spiral →



Arrange your margarine tub beasties in a bouncy mobile. Cut a rubber band and knot one end. Punch a hole in the tub before putting the beastie together and thread rubber band through it. When it is finished, it can be hung on the mobile.

PLASTIC BOTTLES COME IN GOOD SHAPES--

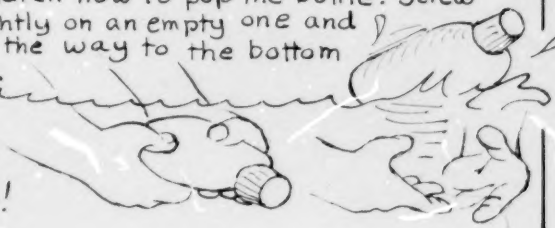
--to PLAY WITH IN THE TUB

Plastic bottles of all shapes and sizes are good for experimenting in the batntub. Children may pour water from one to another, squirt other toys in the tub and fill a bottle with water to see how full it gets before it finally sinks.

POP GOES THE BOTTLE

Mother, or another older responsible person should stay with young children as long as they are in the tub.

Show children how to pop the bottle. Screw the lid tightly on an empty one and push it all the way to the bottom of the tub. Let it go and see what happens!



--to make BOTTLE BABIES

Decorate clean, empty plastic bottles with wax crayons which are waterproof, and you'll have some new friends to add to the bath-tub. Or they can be used as characters in stories.

TWO HINTS:

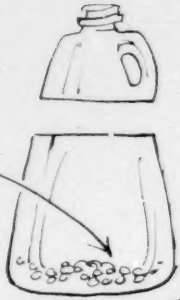
Some bottles are easy to draw on with crayons. Others may be too smooth. You can draw on them, too, if you first sand them with sandpaper.

Plastic bottles wash out easier if you put a little vinegar in them.

--- to make BOTTLE GARDENS

Have Dad, or another adult cut the pper part off of a clear plastic bottle. ut a layer of small stones in the bottom or drainage.

Show a child how to dig up patch of small weeds or moss. eep together as much of the dirt as ossible. Lay this little "weed patch" on op of the stones, moisten (but don't oak) and cover top of "terrarium" with cardboard. This terrarium needs very little water. Infact, if it gets steamy or mouldy inside, it should be allowed to dry out by removing the cardboard for a while.



MAKINGS:
a clear plastic bottle
small stones
weeds with the dirt they are growing in.

SUPPOSE IT IS WINTER

SUPPOSE there is even snow on the ground.

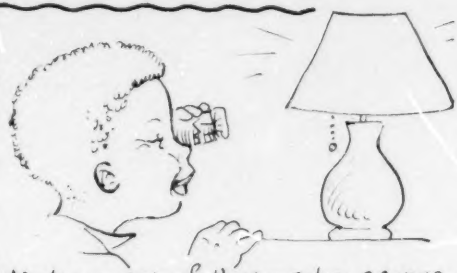
Choose a place you know is thick with weeds in summer. Pour hot water right through the snow on a patch of ground until it thaws. Then dig up that sticky, muddy wad of earth and spread it over the stones in the bottom of the bottle and prepare to watch a mid-winter miracle!

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH ALL THOSE

LOOK! -- and learn with a COLOR TEACHING SET made of cardboard tubes

MAKINGS:
- 4 short cardboard tubes
- 4 wax crayons: red, yellow, blue and green
- wax paper
- 4 rubber bands

Children may help make this set with someone older who can handle an iron.



Place a sheet of wax paper on the ironing board. With a table knife scrape chips from a wax crayon onto the paper.

Lay another piece of wax paper on top and press with a warm iron, melting the crayon chips.

Cover one end of a short cardboard tube with the colored portion of wax paper. Secure with a rubber band and trim away excess paper.

Make a set of these color-scopes using a different color crayon for each one. Let a child choose one, and show him how to look into it, holding it up to a light from a lamp or window. Help him to identify the color. As he learns the first four, make more scopes with new colors.

LISTEN!

- - - to the sound a **HUMMING KAZOO** makes when you hum into it.

To make this kazoo, punch three holes in the tube with a pencil. Cover one end with wax paper and hold in place with a rubber band.

MAKINGS:
a short cardboard tube
wax paper
a rubber band

"Play" it by humming into the open end.

IT'S MAGIC

- - when you make your own **MAGIC WAND**

MAKINGS:
several cardboard tubes
cardboard

Cut a star out of cardboard. Cut a slot in the end of a cardboard tube and fit the star into it.

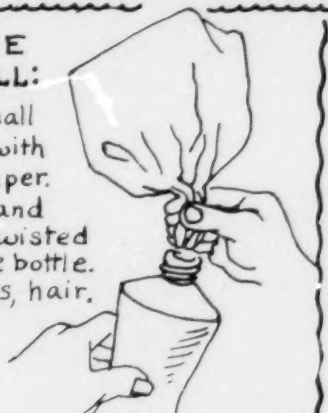
Make the wand as long as you like by first denting one end of a cardboard tube and forcing it into another.

PAPER BAG DOLLS AND PUPPETS can act out endless adventures (or just be friendly when a child is lonely). The heads of these people and the horse on the next page are made the same way.

MAKINGS: small paper bags
newspaper or more paper bags for stuffing
clean plastic detergent bottles (for dolls)
short cardboard rolls (for puppets)
paper, cloth, cotton, yarn for trim.

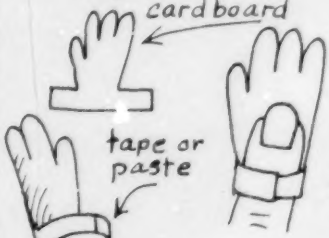
TO MAKE A DOLL:

Stuff a small bag loosely with wadded paper. Twist shut and push the twisted end into the neck of a plastic bottle. Add face, arms, feet, clothes, hair. Draw them on, or cut out from paper and paste or tie them on.



TO MAKE A PUPPET:

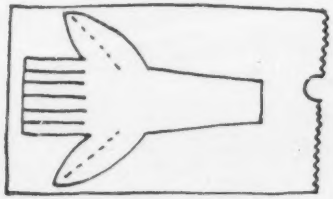
Stuff a small bag loosely with wadded paper. Gather the opening of the bag around one end of a short cardboard roll and tie or tape in place. Cut out hands of paper or cardboard



A PAPER BAG HOBBY HORSE

MAKINGS:
2 large paper bags
newspaper or more paper bags for stuffing
several cardboard rolls
string

TO MAKE EARS AND MANE:



Cut out one panel of a large bag and copy drawing of ears and mane as shown above. Cut out and crease on dotted lines.

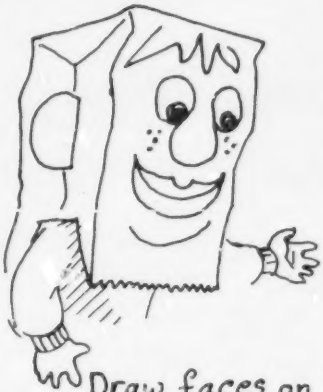
Stuff another bag loosely with wadded paper and twist shut. Hold ears and mane in the position shown and push twisted end of bag into the end of a cardboard roll.

Shape the nose of the horse by tying string tightly around it. Use more string to make the reins. Draw face with crayons.

Make a long stick by first denting one end of a cardboard tube and forcing it into another until it is as long as you want it. It's sturdy, but won't hurt a child who falls on it.

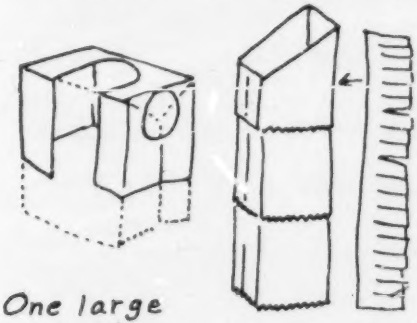
MASKS:

Large bags can be used for masks. Cut out sections on either side of a bag to fit over the shoulders. Have a child slip the bag over his head and show with his fingers where his eyes are. Mark them. Remove the bag and cut out the eye holes.



Draw faces on them. Children can make them funny or scary or draw someone they know.

PAPER BAG "BUCKSKINS" can be made to imitate soft leather.



One large paper bag makes a vest. "Chaps" can be made with two or three smaller bags pasted or taped together. Cut out fringe from another bag and attach.

Pin chaps over your own pant legs

NOW ----

take your costume and crush it all up.

Being careful not to tear it, keep crushing and kneading it until it is soft. Carefully smooth it out again. It will look like buckskin.

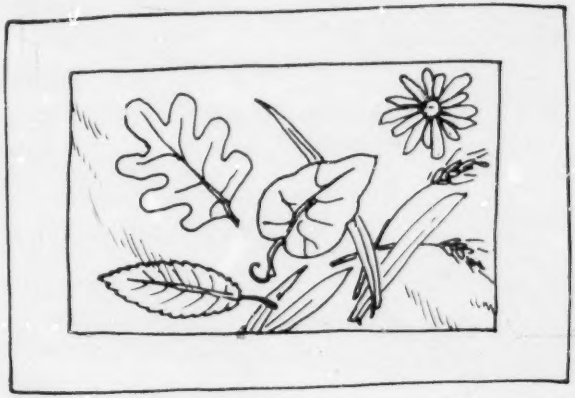
FIND THEM OUTSIDE

MAKINGS:
- Seeds, leaves, grasses, wild flowers, etc.
- Wax paper
- Cardboard

Children can find makings for their nature picture outside. When they go for walks, picnics, or just in the back yard, encourage them to look for leaves, grasses, seeds, wildflowers. Have them arrange their findings on a sheet of wax paper and cover with another sheet of wax paper. Press with a warm iron, as you do for the color scopes.

When hanging these pictures, choose a safe window that a child cannot fall out of.

Tape the picture to a cardboard frame and hang it in the window for everyone to enjoy.



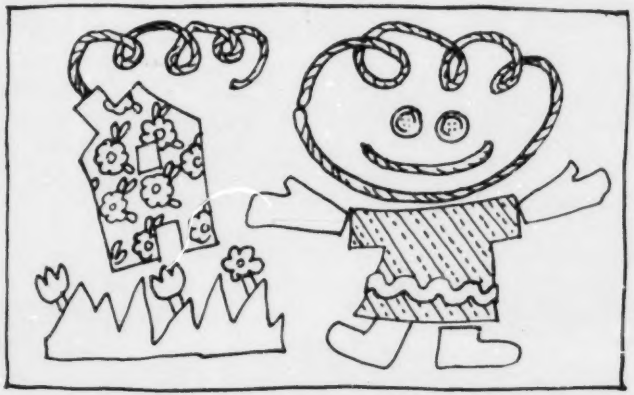
Even the youngest child's two or three scattered leaves will look pretty with the light shining through. Children's artwork varies widely--you will be surprised what some of them can do. A very young child enjoys pretty things, especially if he made them.

FIND THEM INSIDE

MAKINGS:
Scraps of cloth, paper, yarn, rickrack, cotton, ribbon, buttons, etc. etc.
paste
paper or card board

Makings for these pictures are found inside the house. Keep a special container in the stuff-box full of scrap material for PATCHWORK PICTURES. Children enjoy cutting and pasting these materials to a cardboard or piece of paper to form their pictures or designs.

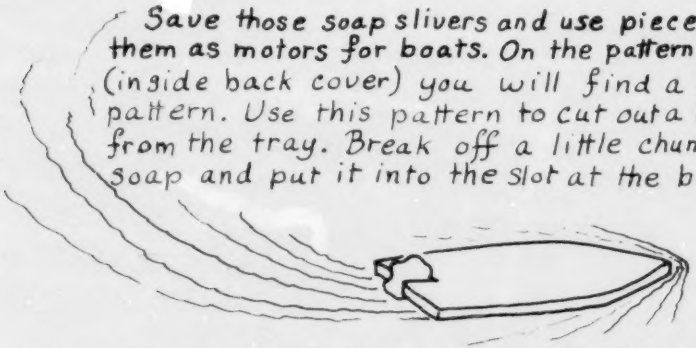
Children may want to tell you about their pictures.



It means alot to children to have you show interest in their creations, and you may be surprised by their comments.

MAKE A BOAT WITH SOAP POWER

Save those soap slivers and use pieces of them as motors for boats. On the pattern page, (inside back cover) you will find a boat pattern. Use this pattern to cut out a boat from the tray. Break off a little chunk of soap and put it into the slot at the back.



Fill a shallow pan with water and wait until the water is very still. Drop the boat gently onto the water, making sure not to push it one way or the other, and watch it go!

Children can race their boats, starting them back to back in the pan to see which reaches the edge first, or start them toward each other. Sometimes they will crash, but sometimes they will steer out of each other's way!

MAKINGS:
a styrofoam meat tray
a soap sliver
clean water
a shallow pan (can be a large meat tray)

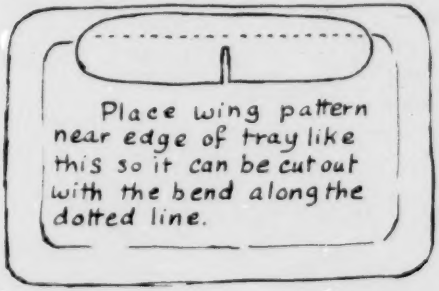
AN EXTRA TIP:

As they move, these boats leave a trail of soap-film behind them. If a boat runs across one of these trails, it will stop. To remove these trails, lay a piece of newspaper on the surface of the water. When you lift the paper, the soap film will go with it and the water will be clean again.

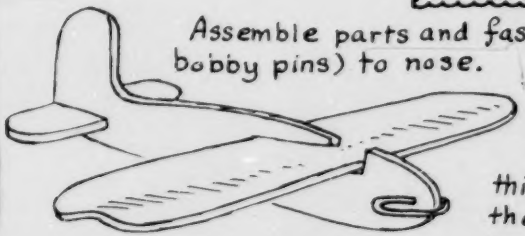
LOOK! IT'S A PLANE!

On the pattern page (inside back cover) you will find the tail, body and wing patterns for this plane. Use these patterns to cut plane parts from tray.

MAKINGS:
- a styrofoam meat tray
- a paper clip or two bobby-pins for weight

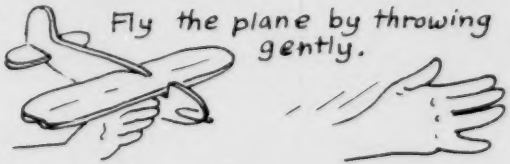


Place wing pattern near edge of tray like this so it can be cut out with the bend along the dotted line.



Assemble parts and fasten paper clip (or bobby pins) to nose.

The curve in the wing creates an "air foil" to help this toy plane fly in the same manner as real planes.

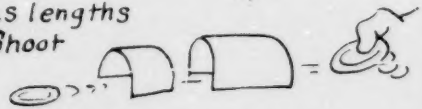


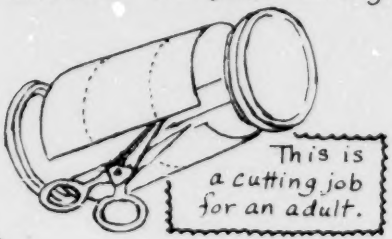
Fly the plane by throwing gently.

It is important to adjust the angle of the wing just right to make the plane fly straight. Try tilting it a little and watch the plane loop-the-loop or nose dive!

If you save cardboard FROZEN JUICE CANS---- you can play TIDDLY-CROQUET!

You need two sizes of frozen juice cans to make a TIDDLY-CROQUET game. Cut wickets of various lengths from the larger cans. Shoot the lids from the small cans through the wickets. Place one upside down on a smooth surface. Press hard on one edge with a "shooter" lid from a larger can.

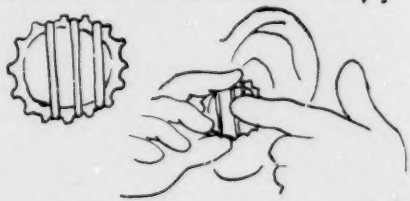




One rubber band plus one bottle cap makes - -

AN EAR-HARP

Here is a little bonus for the child who has built all the musical instruments in this book and whose patient family has at last asked for a little quiet! He can still make music with this ear-harp!



Wrap a rubber band around a bottle cap, hold it up to your ear and plunk it. You can also use a jar lid, if you tape around the lid to hold the rubber band in place.

PATTERN PAGE